

Neighborhood Life Group Guide

Easter Sunday: Jesus if for Everyone!
Pastor Mike Bickley (Easter Services)
Pastor Colin Murphy (Sunrise Service)
April 1, 2018



Prayer: Praise God for the Resurrection! Ask God to be working in the hearts of those who came to worship with our church on Easter Sunday!

Read: Take a few minutes to read and mark up the following passage on your own.

1 Corinthians 15:1-28

¹ Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. ²⁸ When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

Discussion Questions

1. After reading 1 Corinthians 15:1-28, what are some of your observations in this passage?

2. In 1 Corinthians 15:17-18, Paul says: "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished."

- What does Paul say about the importance of Jesus' resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15:1-28?

- What prevents people today from believing Jesus was resurrected from the dead?

- Can someone today be saved and not believe in Jesus' resurrection? Why or why not?

3. Christian faith looks *backwards* to Jesus' death and resurrection, *upwards* to Jesus reigning on the throne, and *forwards* to Jesus' return.

- Faith Looking Backwards: Why do Christians need to rely on Jesus' death and resurrection?

- Faith Looking Upwards: Why do Christians need to rely on Jesus' lordship day-by-day?

- Faith Looking Forwards: Why do Christians need to rely on Jesus' second coming?

4. In 1 Corinthians 15:1-2, Paul says: "Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved"

- If you are a Christian, think back to when you first understood and began believing in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. How was the Gospel message explained to you? What about the Gospel message has changed your life?

5. If you attended the Easter worship services on Sunday, there were videos of different people's testimonies from our congregation showing how Jesus is for everyone. What from their stories or the message on Sunday has inspired or challenged you?

Personal Reflection: Take a few minutes to reflect upon how you have been living out your faith for Jesus Christ this past week.

- ❖ **Word:** Have I read God's Word every day this week? What has God been teaching me?

- ❖ **Prayer:** Have I prayed to God every day this week? What have I prayed for?

- ❖ **Fellowship:** Have I gathered with other believers for fellowship and worship this week? How have I encouraged other Christians? How are other Christians encouraging me?

- ❖ **Confession:** Where am I struggling with sin, temptation, doubt, or hardship? Is there someone I need to seek forgiveness from? Is there someone I need to forgive?

- ❖ **Praise:** How have I seen God at work this week? What fruit have I seen in other people's lives?

- ❖ **Mission:** How have I been on mission this week? Who needs to hear the Gospel? Who can I invite to church? Who can I encourage or pray for this week?

Prayer: After you've spent some time in personal reflection, share one prayer request – a praise, a need, a confession, etc. Write down your group's prayer requests and commit to praying for them this week.